Says new evidence coming in Kennedy assassination

"Recent weeks have seen a number of stories breaking about the assassination of President Kennedy. I think that . . . in the coming weeks and months it (the Warren Commission report) will receive new blows from which it cannot recover."

That's the prediction of James Lesar, attorney for Harold Weisberg. Weisberg has authored several books on the assassination and will publish another in the near future.

Lesar spoke this morning during a news conference at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. He appeared in place of Weisberg who was hospitalized recently.

The new evidence, which Lesar declined to elaborate on, involves the autopsy and ballistics tests. He said the new evidence could force a reinvestigation of the Kennedy assassination.

Exposing the theory that Lee Harvey Oswald was part of a conspiracy to assassinate the president, Lesar said he doesn't know why the truth was "covered up" by the Warren Commission.

"Members of the Warren Commission were afraid to take on the head of the FBI, Mr. J. Edgar Hoover," he said. "They took his word rather than doing their own investigation."

He added that the government now says certain tests on Kennedy were never done but "I don't believe that. I think the government is covering up because the evidence doesn't agree with the Warren Commission report."

Lesar said a new investigation probably would be undertaken by Congress rather than a governmental agency. "When the pressures are great enough, Congress is responsive to public opinion," he said.

Weisberg has been trying to force the government to release basic evidence about the assassination for 10 years, Lesar said. He filed suit in 1970 under the Freedom of Information Act, and although the case was lost in the US Supreme Court, Lesar said it forced Congress to rewrite the law. Under the new law, he and Weisberg again are trying to gain information.

Although the court records "have not been good," the fight has resulted in the release of two important transcripts and the rewriting of the Freedom of Information Act, he said.

Asked about the financial regards for his involvement in the assassination theories, Lesar, who lives in Washington D.C., said that since his graduation from the UW-Madison law school in 1969, his income has not exceeded $4,000 a year.

He also serves as chief counsel for James Earl Ray, accused of the assassination of Martin Luther King.